

wednesday, june 12, 2013

thecollegian

INDEPENDENT VOICE FOR KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

End of the road

“The Bat Cats’ final heartbreaking loss will not be this season’s legacy. Rather, the Wildcats’ 2013 season will go down as the best in K-State history.”

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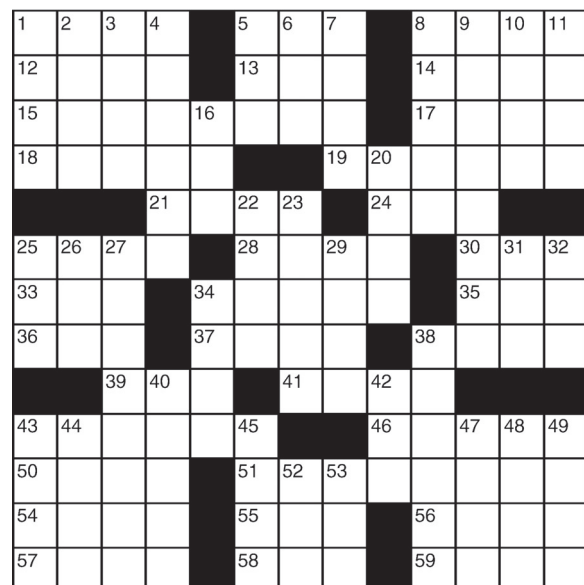
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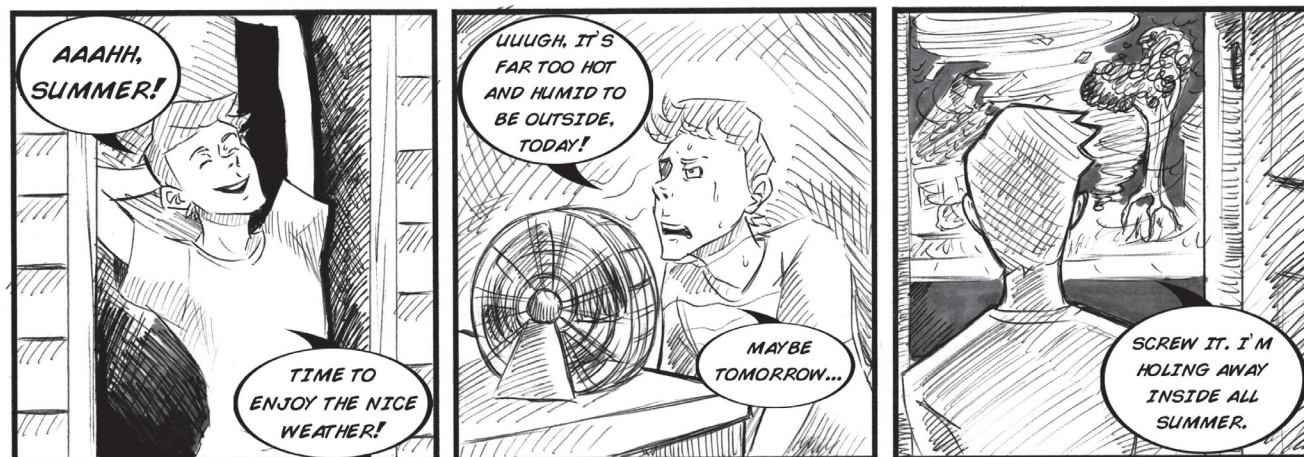
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Yesterday's answer 6-12



Logan's Run | By Aaron Logan



the FOURUM®

785-260-0207

The Fourum is a quirky view of campus life in voices from the K-State community. Positive and humorous comments are selected for publication by the Collegian marketing staff.

There's nothing quite like stuffing an Oreo in your mouth, only to discover that someone replaced the cream cheese with toothpaste. In every. Single. One. Whoever did this, you're now dead to me.

I have not seen any roaches in Hale's fifth floor bathroom for some time. Makes me think they are up to something.

Told a girl she was gorgeous and now she probably thinks I'm creepy. Not an ideal situation.

The number of toothbrushes in the bathroom has doubled this past month. Just how many people live here now?!

Darn. I missed my "liberal hippy" comment being posted in the Fourum. I guess I was too busy worrying about how Obamacare will ruin this country.

The only thing more painful than childbirth is trying to use K-State's Internet...

I wish my coworker would just not graduate so that she could stay and work with me forever ... FOREVER!

Editor's note: To submit your Fourum contribution, call or text 785-260-0207 or email theforum@kstatecollegian.com. Your email address or phone number is logged but not published.

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Deal will keep Hibachi Hut open in Manhattan

Mike Stanton
staff writer

Hibachi Hut, an Aggieville staple since 1959, announced it had gone out of business on May 26. Alan Benest, who worked at Hibachi Hut for a year and a half, said he found out the next morning when a friend and co-worker called him to break the news.

"I guess I wasn't surprised I found out from him and not the Beckers," Benest said of the previous owners, Kale and Sandra Becker, who declined an interview with the Collegian. "They didn't seem like the kind of people who would tell their employees that."

Although Benest said he understood that restaurants sometimes just "kind of go under," he was surprised to hear the news about his place of employment.

"Honestly, I thought the restaurant was on the up-and-up," he said. "They hired a new kitchen manager who was making positive changes, and it seemed like business was starting to pick up."

When Brenda Morgan, wife of local entrepreneur Ward Morgan, heard the news about Hibachi Hut, she was crestfallen.

"Brenda came up to me Sunday night looking like the dog had died," wrote Ward



Russell Edem | Collegian

After 54 years, Hibachi Hut closed its doors. The restaurant, a community landmark, will be moving from Aggieville to Poyntz Avenue.

local governments across the country, gave the issue some thought. The next morning, he contacted former co-owner Kale Becker and asked if he and

"We are planning for it to be located in the old Credit Bureau building at 429 Poyntz," Morgan said. "I like the Aggieville history of Hibachi Hut, but

focus will be well-executed food, great service, and reasonable prices," he said. "I think we want to keep the essence of Hibachi Hut, but there will be some changes. Hopefully, the loyal customers will be OK with some tweaks."

Morgan said he hopes to open for business in the next 90 days, but added that achieving that goal depends upon the construction company.

Benest said he hadn't heard anything definite in regard to employees of the Aggieville Hibachi Hut retaining their jobs under the new ownership.

"One of the Beckers mentioned that they might be looking to hire some of the old employees," he said, "but to be honest, I don't know that I want to work for a different Hibachi Hut."

As for the vacancy left in Ag-

gieville by Hibachi Hut's relocation, it will reportedly be filled by Fuzzy's Taco Shop, which was founded in Fort Worth, Texas, and has since spread to 60 locations in 11 states. Fuzzy's is a popular destination in many college towns, including Lawrence. However, some locals fear the Aggieville district is losing its local identity.

"As a district, we welcome anyone, and my understanding is [Fuzzy's] will be a locally owned franchise, which is really good news," said Tim Fitzgerald, president of the Aggieville Business Association. "We do need to be really cautious about losing the unique feel of Aggieville. There is a role for chains, but we don't want to lose that unique, eclectic feel."

Fitzgerald said that the restaurant business is incredibly competitive and requires

owners to be "on their game" at all times. He said many businesses in Aggieville are struggling to some degree, so while Hibachi Hut's closing did not surprise him, the sudden announcement caught him off guard.

"It all happened so quickly," he said. "It's a huge disappointment for the district."

Partly to blame for Aggieville's challenges, according to Fitzgerald, is a largely negative view of the district by non-student residents of Manhattan, which he said is unfounded.

"The city tends to look down on Aggieville," Fitzgerald said. "To your outside person, the 'Ville is your destination, but there's a sense from longtime residents and officials that it's

"It all happened so quickly. It's a huge disappointment for the district."

Tim Fitzgerald
president of the Aggieville Business Association

Morgan in an email Wednesday about the closing of Manhattan's oldest continuously operated restaurant. "I asked her what was wrong, and she said, 'Hibachi Hut is closing!'"

Morgan, who is CEO of CivicPlus, a Manhattan-based firm dedicated to providing systems for community engagement to

his wife would be willing to sell the rights to the name, recipes and some fixtures. The Morgans and their son, Matthew, met with Becker soon after and came to an agreement that will keep the iconic restaurant in Manhattan, albeit a few miles from its original Aggieville location.

I think it's a great fit for downtown. Downtown Manhattan is really becoming the place to be."

Morgan said the deal is not about making money, but rather preserving a local tradition.

"This isn't something we'll try to make a living on, so the

Cyclist's death should be a lesson for all drivers: don't kill people with cars



Katie Goerl

At 8 a.m. on May 31, Gail Lynne Kline rode out of Salina on her bicycle, heading west on Crawford Street — a paved county road with no shoulder and a speed limit of 55 mph. Between 8:05 and 8:45 a.m., authorities estimate, Kline was struck from behind by a driver in a large, white van, who fled the scene without reporting the accident. Her unresponsive body was discovered lying beneath her bike in the ditch by a passing motorist, both her back wheel and her shoes knocked off. She was pronounced dead later that morning at Salina Regional Health Center.

49-year-old Gail Kline did not have to die. But it was not Kline who was in the wrong. It was the driver, whose inattentiveness caused the accident and whose cowardice prevented him from reporting it, who killed Gail Kline.

Yet days after the tragic accident, Ben Wearing, executive editor of the Salina Journal, drew a different conclusion. On June 5, in an article condescendingly entitled "You're Not Training for the Olympics," Wearing admonished cyclists to stay off county roads.

The May 31 hit-and-run accident that killed Kline, Wearing wrote, marks "an appropriate time for us to make our annual appeal for bicyclists to stay off county roads during harvest."

"Sharing narrow county roads with no shoulders with normal vehicle traffic is dangerous enough," Wearing continued. "Throw in semis and other wheat trucks and farm equipment in a hurry to get through harvest, and the danger rises to the it's-just-not-worth-it level."

Never mind that Kline was not killed by a farmer during harvest season. Never mind that a tractor — yes, even a tractor in a hurry — hardly travels faster than a cyclist. Never mind that farmers tend to be pretty careful

about driving their slow-moving, expensive farm equipment on 55 mph roads. "Whatever event you're training for," Wearing concludes, "it's not worth the risk."

Kline did everything right. A resident of nearby Delphos, Kan., Kline was participating in the Kandango bicycle tour, a three-day ride through the Smoky and Flint Hills, with 49 other riders. Other riders on the tour said the day was sunny and visibility was not a problem, according to a June 1 Salina Journal article by Tim Unruh. Although riding alone, she departed just minutes before a friend with plans to meet up later along the route, a common practice on tours when some participants are slower than others.

Oh, and she was wearing a helmet.

To Wearing, Kline was taking an unnecessary risk. In the end, of course, she's the one who made the decision to ride her bike legally on a public road with appropriate safety equipment and after notifying her loved ones of her intentions. She was basically asking for it.

That was sarcasm. Ben Wearing is trying to blame the victim here, and that is not OK.

Kline is just one of hundreds of Americans killed each year in accidents with motor vehicles. Bicyclists' deaths made up 2.1 percent of all motor vehicle accident fatalities in 2011, when 677 cyclists were killed and 48,000 injured in automobile accidents, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Wearing argues that cyclists put themselves at risk by riding on county roads — which, according to the same statistics, are far safer than urban roads to ride on — and suggests that instead, they ride in town or in an enclosed area. I would argue that drivers put cyclists at risk when they RUN THEM OVER WITH THEIR CARS.

Wearing's "appeal" to cyclists is nothing short of shameful. In the wake of this tragedy, Wearing's choice to place responsibility for bicycle-automobile collisions on the cyclists is reprehensible. Cyclists have the legal right to ride on any road they wish, with the exception of interstate highways. It is not the re-

sponsibility of cyclists to avoid fatal collisions by not riding their bikes on county roads. It absolutely is the responsibility of the drivers behind the wheel of a thousand-pound vehicle traveling upwards of 50 mph to pay attention to the road and give cyclists a safe berth of at least three feet.

Twelve hours after Kline's death, 62-year-old Lewis Grider was arrested and charged with involuntary manslaughter.

According to a June 10 Salina Journal article, the investigation is ongoing but no additional formal charges have been filed. As Grider's attorney Roger Struble stated, "Not every accident is a crime."

Wearing's original article has been assaulted by more than 150 commenters. Wearing also wrote another column, apparently pub-

lished the same day, on which comments have been disabled. In the second article, Wearing asks readers to "imagine that you were the one who hit the cyclist and how that would affect your life. Now try to imagine living with that."

Instead, I'd like to ask Ben Wearing to imagine this: you are legally and safely riding your bike on a quiet county road

during an organized bike tour.

Now try to imagine a driver doesn't strike you from behind and kill you and some idiot doesn't write a column implicitly blaming you for your own death.

What a world that would be.

Katie Goerl is a graduate student in history. Please send comments to opinion@kstatecollegian.com.

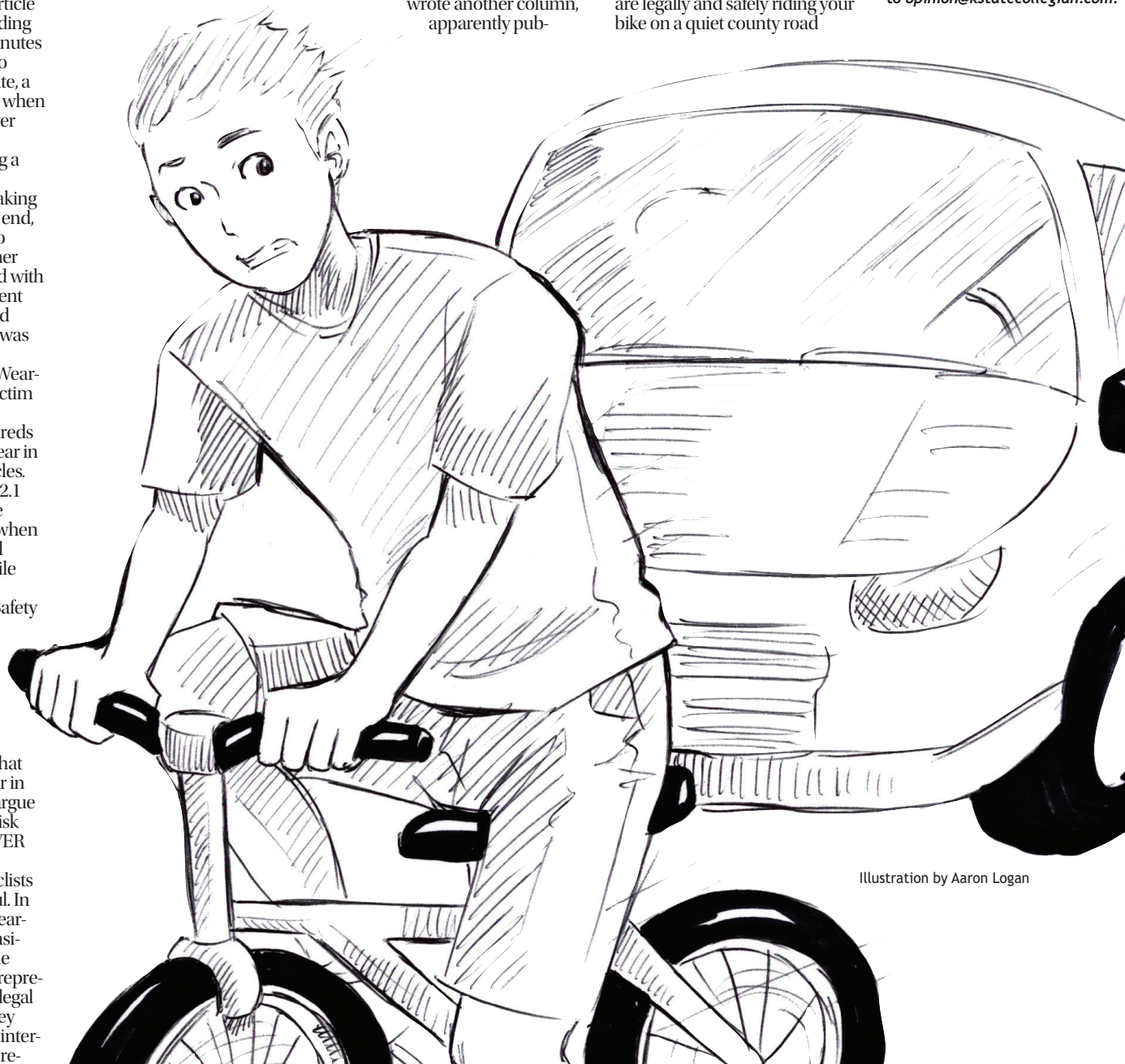


Illustration by Aaron Logan

LGBT acceptance in high schools a sign of attitude change on national scale



Illustration by Tennerly Carttar



Jakki Thompson

Many stories in the news recently have focused on increasing efforts to make young lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans feel welcome in public high schools. As young LGBT suicides continue at shocking rates, this is a critical step in the right direction. Inclusion

and tolerance in an academic setting are crucial to the learning and development of all students, not just the heterosexual students. Moreover, the public acceptance of LGBT individuals, and the media surrounding the issue, is important to the inclusion of all people in this modern society.

One of most beautiful stories in the news is about Dylan Meehan and Brad Taylor. For the first time at Carmel High School, located in New York City, two people of the same sex received the yearbook's "cutest couple" award. It was a mutual friend

named Chelsea Blaney who approached the principal about nominating them, according to a June 3 New York Daily News article, and the couple's photo quickly went viral when Blaney posted it on Tumblr.

This example sets a precedent for high schools across the nation. In communities that are heteronormative, and heteronormativity is all those communities have ever known, the example that Carmel High School has set for same-sex couples nationally is incredibly important. This shows that LGBT inclusion and acceptance,

high school's "best actor" award. Rudolph said he labeled himself as LGBT rather than gay, bisexual or straight because he thought those were terms of the past, according to a Jan. 27 Huffington Post article. In the speech, Rudolph said he had acted straight throughout his high school career, but he felt it was time to come out as an LGBT person.

Ted Chalfen's senior class graduation speech from Fairview High School in Boulder, Colo., made national news when a video of the speech went viral on YouTube. Chalfen spoke about coming out in high school and how he expected to be greeted with verbal insults and even physical bullying, but instead was greeted with encouragement and acceptance.

"The kindness and under-

in all 50 states, the vast majority of LGBT students experience verbal harassment and bullying — 81.9 percent, according to the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network's 2011 School Climate Report. Disturbingly, 38.3 percent of students reported physical harassment, and 18.3 percent were actually physically assaulted at school in the past year due to their sexual orientation.

With such alarming statistics as those reported by GLSEN, it is almost astonishing that Chalfen, Rudolph, Taylor and Meehan were greeted with such acceptance in their respective schools. This is certainly a contemporary shift in society. This is not something that existed when my parents were going to high school or even college. It is incredibly important to see the small steps that are being taken to increase the acceptance of LGBT students in all schools, all over the nation.

As I sit and think about my high school experience in terms of LGBT bullying, I recall that I was one of the many students who experienced exclusion, disrespect, insults and aggression. So, as a college student, it is very meaningful to see that high school students are increasingly experiencing not harassment and bullying, but acceptance and empathy in their communities, whether the change comes from formally coming out during a public speech or winning "cutest couple" in the high school yearbook. Even though these are only three examples of LGBT students receiving media attention for being accepted by their community, there are countless more who have made great strides in their communities to increase LGBT acceptance and inclusion.

Jakki Thompson is a junior in journalism and mass communications and American ethnic studies. Please send comments to opinion@kstatecollegian.com.

"I was one of the many students who experienced exclusion, disrespect, insults and aggression. So, as a college student, it is very meaningful to see that high school students are increasingly experiencing not harassment and bullying, but acceptance and empathy in their communities."

especially in public schools, are increasingly important to Americans and that a lateral shift is occurring nationally.

Two other important examples of LGBT acceptance in public schools nationally come from videos that recently went viral. The first example is of 18-year-old Jacob Rudolph, who came out as LGBT in his acceptance speech of his

standing that you all have shown me over the past four years speaks volumes about each and every one of you as human beings," Chalfen said to his graduating class, according to a May 22 Huffington Post article.

Stories like these are critical to raising LGBT acceptance in the sphere of public education. In public high schools and middle schools

Wild ride for 'Bat Cats' ends with NCAA super regional loss to Oregon State

Sean Frye
staff writer

On June 11, the most successful season in K-State Athletics history came to a sad close as K-State lost 4-3 to the Oregon State Beavers in Game 3 of the NCAA super regional at Oregon State's Goss Stadium.

But the heartbreaking finish for the Wildcats, affectionately known as the "Bat Cats" throughout the Manhattan and K-State community, will not be this season's legacy.

Rather, the Wildcats' 2013 season will go down as the best in K-State history, and one that capped off one of the most suc-

cessful years for any Big 12 program in NCAA history.

The season will be remembered for the Big 12 title the Wildcats won due, in part, to some of the best batting in the country, despite finishing at the very bottom of the conference just one season ago.

It will be remembered for the teamwork displayed, like when the Wildcats traveled to Moore, Okla., during the Big 12 tournament to help with relief efforts after a tornado destroyed the Oklahoma City suburb.

It will be remembered for the Wildcats' countless comeback wins, including their recovery from a 3-0 deficit against the Ar-

kansas Razorbacks during the first NCAA regional ever hosted by the Bat Cats. The 4-3 win sent them to the super regionals for the first time in K-State history.

This is a season that produced three MLB draft picks from the Wildcat ranks: Big 12 Player of the Year center fielder Jared King, second baseman Ross Kivett and pitcher Shane Conlon.

This season also showed that the future is bright for K-State baseball. The pitching staff will be anchored for the next two seasons by Jake Matthys, Big 12 Freshman of the Year. The offense also looks good heading forward, as hitting coach Mike Clement enters his second year

in Manhattan. He will look to perfect an offense that had the second-highest batting average in the country in 2013.

But the Bat Cats did more than just win for themselves. They carried a precedent that was set by Bill Snyder and the K-State football team, as well as Bruce Weber

and the men's basketball team, all Big 12 champions.

The Bat Cats' head coach Brad Hill also followed Snyder and Weber to win the 2013 Big 12 Coach of the Year award.

The Wildcats are now just one of two programs in Big 12 history to win the football, men's bas-

ketball and baseball titles in the same academic year. Texas did it back in 2005-06.

This baseball team had a truly incredible year. The Bat Cats' success will be remembered for years to come, hopefully as the start of a long-running line of championships for the program.

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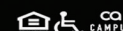
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24th annual Juneteenth celebration to provide free music, entertainment

Karen Sarita Ingram
news editor

Music, dance and laughter will bring the city to life at the 24th annual Juneteenth Community Festival in City Park this Friday and Saturday. This event celebrates the anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation and aims to bring the entire Manhattan community together to celebrate freedom and life.

Monique King, event coordinator, said this event is not just for African-American community members, or any one group, for that matter.

"This community celebration is for the old, for the young, for the middle. It's for everyone to come and enjoy it," she said. "It's a free event for the community."

The two day festival begins on Friday at 7 p.m. and will feature performances by more than a dozen area groups, including Agape Church, saxo-

phonist Jahvelle Rhone and the Juneteenth Gospel Choir.

Saturday's celebration will begin with a parade at 10 a.m. on Poyntz Avenue. Participants will meet at 9:15 on the corner of Ninth and Poyntz instead of the Sears parking lot because of the construction downtown. Jaleesa Ridley will perform the National Anthem, followed by a reading of the Proclamation by Mayor John Matta. Scholarships and other prizes will be awarded at the celebration, which will run until 5 p.m. on Saturday.

Other events include performances by the Kansas City Gateway Highsteppers Drill Team and Spoken Word. There will be activities for both adults and children, including a bouncy castle, basketball tournament and a CPR demonstration by representatives from Mercy Hospital. The Kansas National Guard will also be on hand with a climbing wall and

mechanical bull.

King said she was looking forward to watching people on the mechanical bull.

"I'm going to take so many pictures of that," King said. "That's my highlight."

In addition to free entertainment, dozens of food vendors will be available. King said the celebration would be held "rain or shine." For more information, visit manhattanjuneteenth.org.

HUT | District image hurts business

Continued from page 3

regarded as an eyesore, and that's shameful."

Fitzgerald said this reputation can be attributed to the fact that Aggieville is the most popular weekend destination for students of legal drinking age, but he added that the situation is blown out of proportion. He said that while students do flock to Aggieville during the school year, they tend to wait until late at night and early in the morning, leaving plenty of time for residents looking for a more laid-back atmosphere to enjoy the district earlier in the evening.

"You'll literally hear townies say, 'Oh, the students are gone, we can go to Aggieville now,' and it's really unfortunate," Fitzgerald said. "Do

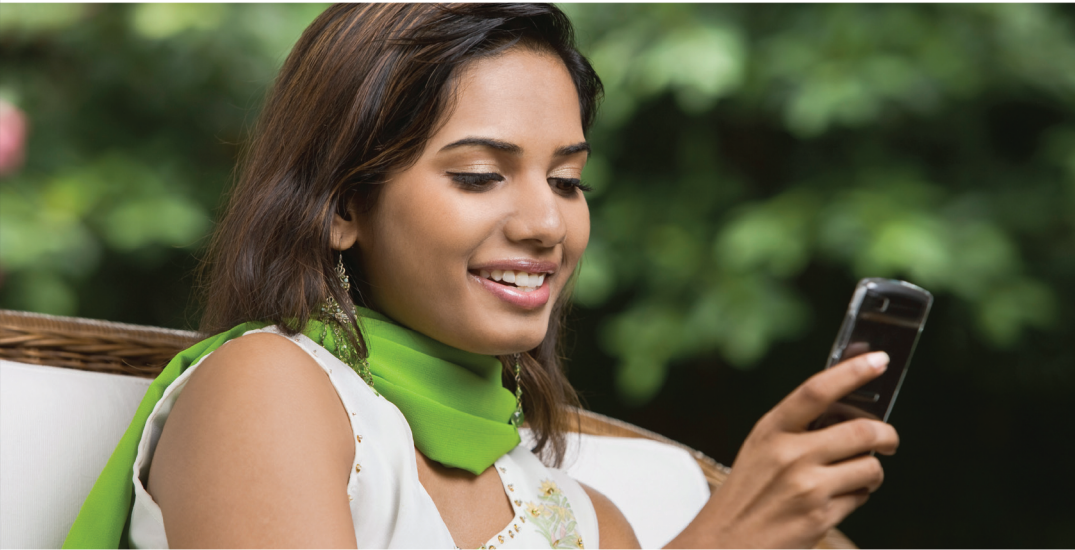

things happen in Aggieville, yeah, but that's just the nature of what goes on there. It's no fault of the students. You can go park and eat on a Friday or Saturday evening, no problem."

Another aspect of Aggieville that Fitzgerald says may not be widely understood is the quality of food available. Even dealing with inconvenient parking, an issue Fitzgerald said the district has been attempting to resolve with the city for years, is worth it to eat some of the best food in Manhattan.


"I don't think Manhattan residents really grasp the treasure that Aggieville is," he said. "It's not just a bunch of bar food down here. There are a lot of great chefs doing some really cool things."

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Review

Nine Inch Nails make 'haunting' comeback with new single



Jakki Thompson
edge editor

Since 2009, Trent Reznor, lead singer of techno-metal band Nine Inch Nails, has been on hiatus. Well, surprise, Trent Reznor and the whole of Nine Inch Nails are back for the September 2013 release of "Halo 28: Hesitation Marks." The band released the first single off the album "Came Back Haunted" on June 6.

As someone who has followed this band for more than a decade, at one point having all 27 Halo albums and having seen the band live, I have been an avid Nine Inch Nails fan for some time. Upon the release of "Came Back Haunted," I didn't know what to expect. Reznor's music is always a surprise, and he always seems to have something new up his sleeve.

The release of the band's new single calls to mind the release of previous singles like "Head Like

a Hole," "Closer" and "The Hand That Feeds." All three were mainstream hits and caused the music scene to welcome back Nine Inch Nails with open arms, no matter the band's time away or the side projects they were working on.

"Came Back Haunted" starts with a very typical Nine Inch Nails sound — techno-enhanced music overpowered by Reznor's distinct voice. The song then continues into different stanzas separated by a chorus, sounding quite typical of Nine Inch Nails.

The song bears a strong similarity to the band's other mainstream songs in that it brings together two decades of sound. With Robin Finck on rhythm guitars, the song breaks from its electronic sound at the beginning into a guitar solo near the middle, which shows how important live instruments still are to the band. The song ends in a culmination of sounds from the entire track for a strong conclusion that leaves you



wanting more.

Like previous Nine Inch Nails singles, the more "Came Back Haunted" continues to be publicized in the rock and metal community, the more popular the song will become. Nine Inch Nails is notorious for selling out stadium shows and topping music charts upon album releases. With their newest album

dropping in September and the release of the 2013-14 Tension Tour dates, this single brings great anticipation for the tour and the entire album.

Jakki Thompson is a junior in mass communications and American ethnic studies. Please send comments to edge@kstatecollegian.com.

Review

'The Hangover Part III' brings closure to franchise



Sierra Hale
managing copy chief

It's a common rule of cinema that a movie's sequels will never be as good as the original. "The Hangover Part III" is no exception. It sacrifices comedy for action and moves from the world of ribaldry and drunken pranks to something much darker. However, learning from its disappointing predecessor "The Hangover Part II," the film does get some things right.

Instead of simply recreating the events of "The Hangover" like the second film did, "The Hangover Part III" switches up the plot and thereby regains much of the craziness and unpredictability of the original. The film also works as a great finale, bringing closure

to its main characters and plot lines. In the end, this film is not as good as the original, but much better than the first sequel.

It's Alan, played by Zach Galifianakis, whose steadily declining mental health and erratic behavior brings the wolf pack back together for an intervention. But as Stu (played by Ed Helms), Phil (Bradley Cooper) and Doug (Justin Bartha) drive Alan to a mental health center, they're ambushed and Doug is taken.

To get him back, the others must track down and kidnap Leslie Chow, played by Ken Jeong, a feat that brings them back to Las Vegas for a final showdown. Two new characters are played by comedic greats Melissa McCarthy, who is hilarious as usual, and John Good-

man, who seems underutilized.

The references to the first "Hangover" movie, for those who have seen it, are enjoyable and even a bit heartfelt. However, although fans of the "Hangover" franchise will likely enjoy the final film's many throwbacks, it relies too much on the plot and characters of the first movie for it to stand alone. It's unfortunate that the film is entirely inaccessible to those new to the franchise, but previous box office numbers show there's a pretty big market for this film even if the audience is made up only of fans.

The one glaring flaw at the film's end is that after everything the four men have gone through, they don't seem to have learned anything. Surprisingly for a trilogy that focuses on the strength of male friendship, there's not much character growth.

Despite everything, it's important to note that between Helms, Cooper and especially Galifianakis, the film is never lacking for comedy. If you're not into shock-humor or Galifianakis' brand of awkwardness, obviously you won't find it funny, but if you

enjoy that type of humor, you'll find much to enjoy. This sequel is at its best when distanced from the original. It recalls the plot of the first film, but I wouldn't recommend re-watching the first movie before you see this one. It will only suffer by comparison. On the other hand, feel free to re-watch "The Hangover Part II" before you see Part III — it'll make this one seem awesome.

Sierra Hale is a graduate student in English. Please send comments to edge@kstatecollegian.com.

Briefs

Karen Sarita Ingram
news editor

Superman, black Civil War regiment among Kansas Hall of Fame inductees

The third annual Kansas Hall of Fame ceremony will induct five individuals and two groups that have made significant contributions to the state. This year's inductees include the First Colored Kansas Infantry, which was the first black regiment in the U.S. Army; the band Kansas; Dr. Charles F. Menninger and his sons, Drs. Karl and William Menninger, who founded the Menninger Foundation for the treatment of behavior disorders; Dr. James Naismith, the "Father of Basketball"; and Clark Kent, a.k.a. Superman. The ceremony will take place June 21 at the White Concert Hall in Topeka, and an exhibit about the inductees will run until July 14 at the Great Overland Station in Topeka. For more information, visit greatoverlandstation.com or call 785-232-5533.

Actor John Malkovich saves elderly injured man in Toronto

An elderly man on a walk with his wife in Toronto tripped and fell on some scaffolding, slicing his neck open on June 6. Help came in the form of an unexpected passerby — actor John Malkovich. Malkovich, who was in Toronto while starring in a play, used a towel to put pressure on the wound and keep the bleeding under control until an ambulance arrived, according to a June 3 CBC News article. The 77-year-old victim, who received 10 stitches at the hospital, was released and is expected to make a full recovery.

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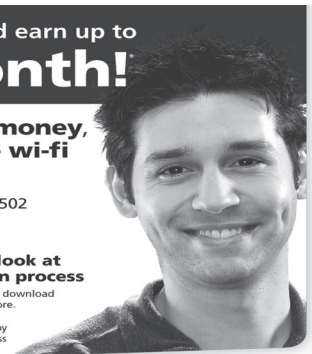


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College student, single parent: the joys and challenges

Jakki Thompson
edge editor

Editor's note: This is part one of a two-part series about students who face the challenge of completing their degrees while taking on the responsibilities of a single parent.

"First of all, it's hard to explain all of the challenges and all of the advantages of being a parent to a non-parent," said Melissa Prescott, graduate student in English and women's studies. "It's not something I talk about in words because there aren't words to describe what it's like."

Prescott, a single parent of two boys — Evan, 10, and Dylan, 8 — has completed an undergraduate degree and a graduate certificate, in a total time of six years. Between balancing classes, family, work, childcare, after-school activities, extracurricular activities and her leadership positions at K-State, Prescott has rejected every stereotype that she encountered as a single parent and a college student.

Prescott and her now ex-husband moved to Manhattan in 2004 shortly after marrying so that he could be

closer to his family. When she enrolled at K-State in 2007, Prescott and her husband already had a family of four. But in June 2009, two years into her undergraduate degree, their marriage ended in divorce. Prescott received custody of Evan and Dylan, and suddenly her responsibilities as a student and a mother became much more complicated.

"Scheduling was a logistical nightmare," Prescott said. "I would schedule school and work around them. If I picked them up from after-school activities around 5 p.m., and they went to sleep around 8:30 p.m., that time in between was sacred to me. I would let very little get in the way of my time with my children."

For Prescott, the most stress came from dealing with sudden changes to her and her sons' schedules. She said on evenings when she had to work on a group project or attend a campus event, her sons would often come along with her. Prescott also took summer intercession courses to complete her degree as quickly as possible. Through a little more than 16 semesters, she said her boys have come to understand the importance of higher education, even during

those more intense times.

"Even when school was the most stressful, it was always to provide a better life for myself and my boys," Prescott said. "There is value in having an education. It would have been hard to tell them how important school is if I weren't trying to pursue a higher education."

However, Prescott added, "Even though I pursued postsecondary education, that doesn't mean those without college degrees are unsuccessful."

Her work paid off. Academically, Prescott was high-achieving. In August 2011, she graduated with a bachelor's degree in English and a 3.7 GPA, as well as minors in women's studies and American ethnic studies. Now that she has completed the coursework for her graduate program, she will graduate with a master's degree in English and a women's studies certificate in August with a

SINGLE | pg. 12



Jakki Thompson | Collegian

Melissa Prescott, graduate student in English and women's studies and mother of two, sits in Hale Library with her sons **Dylan** (left) and **Evan** (right) reading "The Book Thief."



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Dinosaur Petting Zoo thrills McCain



"We came up with the show in order to show people dinosaurs in a different way."

Ra Jobe
Dinosaur Petting Zoo performer

Russell Edem | Collegian
Ra Jobe, performer, shows a young audience member the teeth of the juvenile T-Rex.

Russell Edem
photo editor

Dinosaurs have not walked on this Earth in 65 million years — until recently. Dinosaurs visited McCain Auditorium on Monday for the Dinosaur Petting Zoo performance, presented by Erth Visual and Physical Inc.

"These dinosaurs, however, were only puppets. The puppeteers interacted with audience members, especially children, to make the show a unique experience. About five different types of dinosaurs from all over the world were presented.

"My favorite dinosaur was the T-Rex. He was cool," said Noah Godderz, a child from Manhattan who attended the show.

The T-Rex was a very large puppet between 10 and 12

feet tall. It roared, walked and moved around like a real animal. In one part of the show, performers had to remove a bad tooth from the T-Rex and asked children from the audience to help. After the tooth was removed, the creature roared and chased the children around the stage, making them scream and laugh. Some members of the audience jumped to their feet, yelling and applauding.

Another dinosaur featured at the show was the small, bipedal Leaellynasaura. There were two hatchlings and two adults of this species. This dinosaur seemed to be popular among the children in the audience.

"My favorite dinosaur in the show was the Leaellynasaura," said Ann Hess, a child from Manhattan who attended the

show.

The herbivorous Leaellynasaura was a smaller dinosaur compared to some of the others in the show. It had large eyes compared to other dinosaurs, leading scientists to believe that the species was able to hunt and see better in low-light conditions.

"We believe this dinosaur could be one of the smarter ones because of its ability to see and hunt in the dark," said Ra Jobe, show performer. "Being able to see in the dark tells us it would have a larger brain to be able to perform this function."

As each different dinosaur came out, performers told the audience a little story about that dinosaur to explain where it came from, what type it was, its diet and when it lived on the earth.

"The show was very good and educational to the children in the audience as well as the adults," said Randy Harris, Manhattan resident, who attended the show with his wife.

Erth Visual and Physical Inc., the Australia-based company that presented the show, was started in 1990 with the goal of putting on live theatrical performances that people have never seen.

"We came up with the show in order to show people dinosaurs in a different way, and to educate them in a way that has not been done before," Jobe said.

The Dinosaur Petting Zoo was started in a museum in Australia in order to educate visitors. The show has been performed for five years and only has been in the U.S. for about two years.

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the collegian

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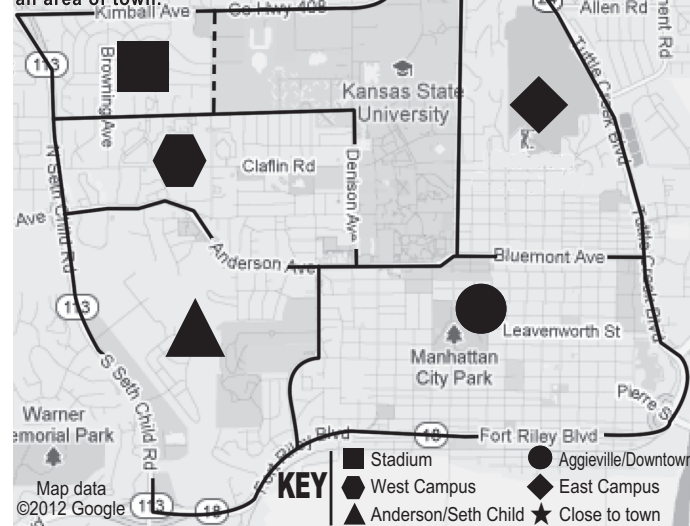
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SINGLE | Mom maintains 'stellar' academics despite scheduling issues

Continued from page 9

cumulative GPA of 3.7.

But supporting her two children came before anything else in her life, including her grade point average. Prescott said she had a 4.0 GPA in her master's program before one of her children got sick last semester. Always putting her kids first often meant having to miss class in order to take her child

to the doctor's office or pick him up from school — something her professors understood.

"I think Melissa is a stellar student," said Lisa Tatonetti, associate professor of English. "I've had her in classes since she was a sophomore in her undergraduate program, and now I am the second reader for her thesis committee. She is consistently reliable and just really outstanding. She would

always go above and beyond in her research and in her academics."

Tatonetti recalled the first time she had Prescott in a class. It was English 270, an introductory course required for English majors. As Tatonetti remembered, Prescott had to bring one of her boys with her in order to attend class that day. She said Prescott's son was well-behaved and great to be around.

As a professor for many years, Tatonetti said she has heard many excuses from students who are unable to attend class, especially students without the burden of single parenthood. But she said students like Prescott who have children are often the most dependable and reliable students she has, while other students without those challenges are unable to make it to class or complete deadlines.

There were also some days, as a graduate teaching assistant in the English department, when Prescott's sons had to come to her classroom because public schools were closed, but K-State was still holding classes.

As a teacher, having small children in a college class may not be ideal, but Prescott said it was incredibly rewarding to give her sons the opportunity to see her outside of the role she held as a student. After Evan and Dylan visited her classroom, all three of them would talk about the experience afterward. Prescott said she likes sharing the things she is passionate about with her boys.

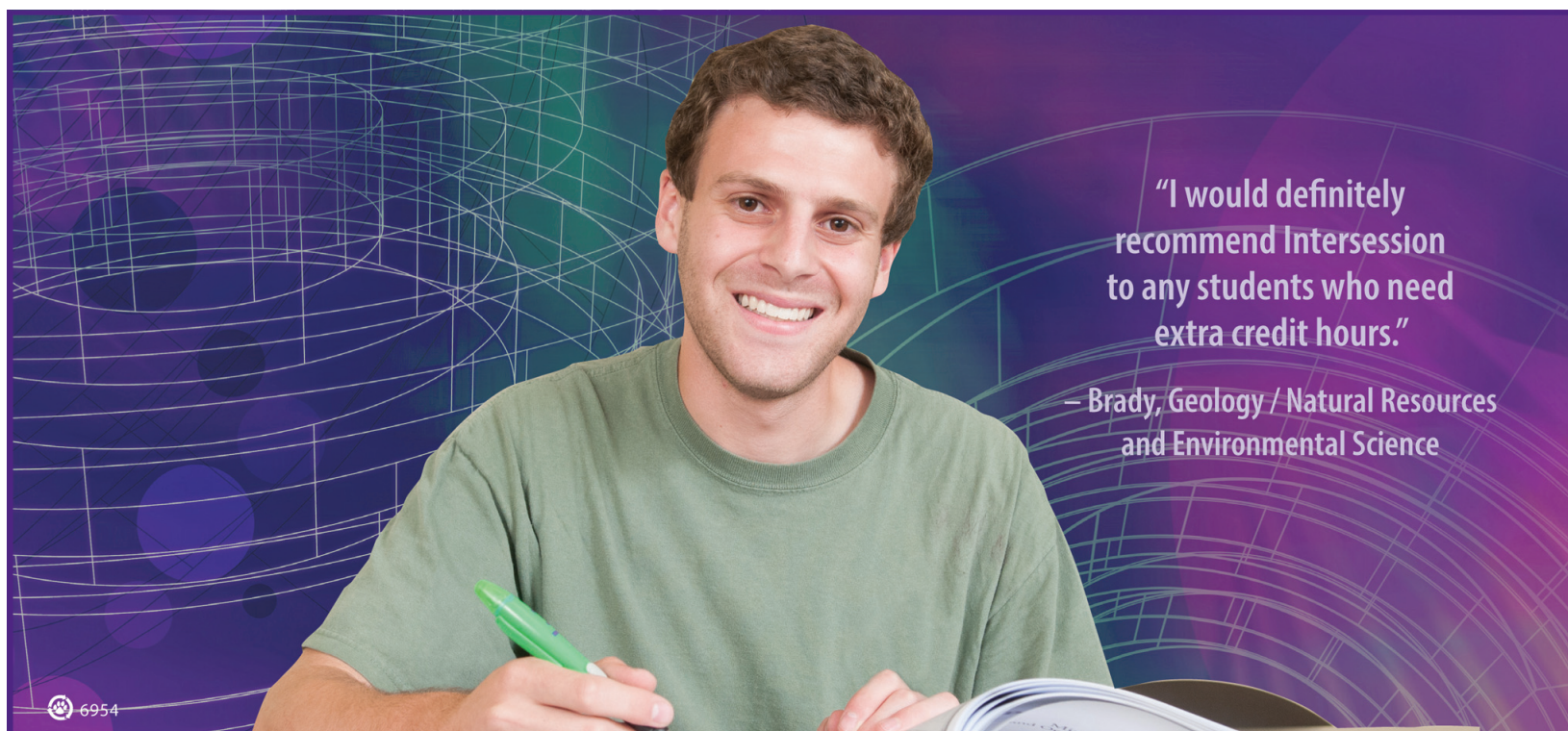
Karin Westman, professor and head of the English department, said she would describe Prescott as engaged, intellectually curious, passionate, kind and focused on the individualistic aspects of people

and classrooms. Westman said she was incredibly impressed with Prescott's commitment to education and also her ability to accommodate both identities (student and single parent) and fulfill both roles successfully.

"Being a single parent in college means I had to plan long-term," Prescott said. "I would schedule things weeks in advance with very little leeway in my scheduling. Sometimes, when I would tell people I was busy, I would get looks of confusion. But, as a single mother of two young boys, I treasured and valued the time I got to spend with them when we were all not in school or work."



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on page 2
the collegian



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